coordinated a campaign in the Pune city against the spread of AIDS;

(b) whether Government propose to launch similar campaigns in other big cities in coordination with the National Institute of Virology; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Institute of Virology jointly with the Pune Municipal Corporation had collected blood samples from prostitutes to conduct tests for HIV infection. The results of the tests were communicated to the Pune Municipal Corporation, who will issue health cards which will enable the prostitutes to obtain medicare and counselling facilities periodically. The National Institute of Virology is also screening other high risk groups such as blood donors and patients suffering from sexually transmitted diseases by obtaining blood samples from hospitals managed by Government and the Corporation.

(b) and (c) Indian Council of Medical Research in collaboration with the State Governments has established 40 surveillance centres in 30 cities. These surveillance centres are also screening prsons belonging to high risk groups for detecting HIV infection.

Survey of Indian Ocean for Medicinal Plants

755. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any Survey of Indian Ocean for availability of medicinal plants and weeds;

(b) if so, what are the details of such survey and the outcome thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, in what manner Government propose to tap the available rare medicinal resources of Indian Ocean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Around 450 marine organisms (plants and animals) have been collected, identified and screened for biological activity. Out of these, 1-54 have found to be biologically active. Detailed chemical evaluation of twenty-five samples for development of new drugs from marine organisms is in progress.

Surveys in the coastal zones of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Lakshadweep Islands have indicated availability of sea weeds (harvestable). Dominant species identified are Sargassum, Gracilaria, Hypnea, Acanthophora, Ulva Enteromorpha etc. An anti-viral agent from a sea weed has been identified and isolated.

(c) Does not arise.

Transplantation of human organs

756. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been encouraging transplantation of human organs to save the life of patients;

(b) if so, what are the details of legal or statutory provisions made by Government to regulate transplantation of human organs;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what is the legal status of present-day human organ transplantations in India; and

(d) what is the manner in which Government propose to check the exploitation of human organ donors by rich people and clandestine businessmen doing business in human organs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) The Goverment is contemplating the enactment of a legislation for facilitating organ transplants and to check illegal sale of human organs. The details in this regard are being worked out.

Passing on the research and development achievements of CSIR laboratories to the Industry

757. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CSIR laboratories are undertaking Research for development and benefit of different sectors of industry;

(b) if so, what efforts have been made by Government to pass on the new achievements in Research and Development by the CSIR laboratories to user industries; and

(c) what type of coordination has been made between the user industries and CSIR laboratories for immediate absorption of R&D developed by these laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CSIR organises periodic get-togethers with user industry to project its R&D achievements. Besides, its individual laboratories publicise their R&D achievements through various publications and demonstration workshops seminars etc. for entrepreneurs.

(c) For every knowhow licensed to industry, CSIR laboratories demonstrate the process and impart training to the personnel of the licensee firm.

Also whenever requested by the industrial firm availing of its knowhow, CSIR deputes its scientists/technologists involved with the development of the knowhow to the industrial firm to assist in implementation and successful commercial utilisation of knowhow. CSIR has also drawn up guidelines for marketing its knowhow of the laboratories to accelerate its inter-action with the users.

Control of Iodine deficiency diseases by "oil injections"

758. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 176 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether efficacy of "Oil injection" for control of iodine deficiency diseases has been tested for its use in the rural population who cannot afford iodised salt; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's future plan for use of oil injections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The efficacy or otherwise in respect of iodised oil injection in relation to Iodine Deficiency Disorders has been studied in Gonda and Deoria districts of Uttar Pradesh. One of the major outcomes of the study is that iodised oil injection when given to mothers particularly in the last trimester of pregnancy, does not help reduce the incidence of neonatal chemical hypothyrodism in iodine deficiency environment.

The present strategy of the Government is to continue with the programme of iodisation of edible salt for control of Goitre and other iodine deficiency disorders.